

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 14703 302352Z
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TAGS: AORG, WIPO
SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP AND WIPO

REF: GENEVA 14548

1. GENEVA GROUP CO-CHAIRMAN, SORENSON AND MACINNES, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. SCHROEDER OF THE US DELEGATION AND MR. TARNOFSKY OF THE UK DELEGATION, CALLED ON WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL BOGSCH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE GROUP ABOUT THE GROWTH IN THE BUDGET IN 1979 AND 80 AND TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS OF THE WIPO BUDGET COMMITTEE.

2. AFTER EXPLAINING TO DR. BOGSCH WHAT THE GENEVA GROUP WAS, WE INDICATED OUR GENERAL UNHAPPINESS WITH THE 1979 BUDGET AND SAID THAT THE 1980 BUDGET, WHICH CALLS FOR REAL GROWTH RANGING FROM A MINIMUM OF 10 PER CENT TO AS MUCH AS 43 PER CENT IN THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS, WAS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE TO US. WE NOTED THAT THE WIPO BUDGET IS DENOMINATED IN SWISS FRANCS, THAT THERE IS NO INFLATION HERE AND THAT, WITH MOST OTHER CURRENCIES DECLINING AGAINST THE SWISS FRANC, MANY CONTRIBUTORS

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 14703 302352Z

WOULD BE FACED WITH EXTRAORDINARY INCREASES IN THE LEVEL OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS EVEN IF THERE WERE TO BE ZERO REAL GROWTH. WE POINTED OUT MOREOVER, THAT BUDGET PROJECTIONS ROUNDED TO 10 AND 20 PER CENT FOR MOST OF THE UNIONS UNDER WIPO SUGGESTED AN ABSENCE OF ANY REAL PLANNING. WHY 10 PER CENT? WHY 20 PER CENT? WE SAID THAT ALL OF US WERE FACED WITH BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS

IN OUR OWN COUNTRIES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE REFLECTED
IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE FINANCE. WE
CALLED FOR A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES AND ZERO
GROWTH.

3. IT WAS BOGSCH'S FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE GENEVA
GROUP, AND HE DID NOT TAKE KINDLY TO OUR INTERVENTION.
INDEED, OUR FIRST IMPRESSION WAS THAT HE HAD MISTAKEN
US FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF VASSAL STATES. HE SAID
THAT THE LEVEL OF OUR CONTRIBUTIONS GAVE US NO SPECIAL
CLAIMS, THAT IN ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP WE ALSO
ACCEPTED CERTAIN LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND THAT IF WE
WANTED ZERO GROWTH WE HAD BETTER TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE
PROGRAM COMMITTEE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DID NOT HAVE THE
VOTES IN THE ORGANIZATION, AND IT WAS POLITICALLY
UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT WE COULD TELL THE MAJORITY
THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE THE PROGRAMS THAT THEY WANTED.
HE, AT LEAST, WOULD NOT WANT TO TELL THEM SO. THE
DOLS 20 THOUSAND CONTRIBUTION OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY
IS JUST AS DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MAKE AS THE
AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION IS FOR IT TO MAKE.

4. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE DISCUSSION BECAME SOMEWHAT
ANIMATED, AND CO-CHAIRMEN AT ONE POINT FELT CON-
STRAINED TO INQUIRE WHETHER BOGSCH BELIEVED THAT
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BELONGED TO THE MEMBER
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 14703 302352Z

STATES OR THE MEMBER STATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS. THIS PUT THINGS MORE INTO PERSPECTIVE,
AND HE THEN ARGUED THAT WIPO HAD THE RIGHT TO GROW
AS FAST AS OTHER UN BODIES, IF NOT FASTER SINCE IT WAS
SMALLER. WE DISAGREED, BUT POINTED OUT THAT, IN ANY
EVENT, WE WERE NOT SINGLING WIPO OUT, BUT WERE TRYING
TO APPLY THE SAME PRINCIPLES TO ALL UN AGENCIES. WE
NOTED ESPECIALLY THAT WHO HAD BROUGHT ITS REAL RATE OF
GROWTH DOWN TO 2 PER CENT IN CONFORMITY WITH GENEVA
GROUP OBJECTIVES.

5. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEGUN A VERY
HEALTHY AND NECESSARY DIALOGUE WITH DR. BOGSCH. HIS
ORGANIZATION HAS JUST MOVED INTO A NEW, ORNATE AND
LAVISH BUILDING REPLEAT WITH DIFFERENT COLORED MARBLE
ON EACH FLOOR, A PRIVATE ELEVATOR FOR THE DG AND HIS
VERY OWN WORDS ON THE ART OF INVENTION INSCRIBED IN
LATIN -- THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE -- IN THE
MOZAIC FRIEZE AROUND THE CUPOLA OVER THE ENTRANCE. IT
WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED THAT WIPO WOULD HELP PAY FOR
THE BUILDING BY LEASING PART OF THE SPACE TO OTHER
OCCUPANTS. BOGSCH'S INCLUSION IN THE BUDGET OF A

5 PER CENT REAL GROWTH FACTOR TO COMPENSATE FOR
QUOTE EXISTING UNDERSTAFFING, UNQUOTE STRONGLY INDICATES
THAT HIS PLANS NOW ARE TO FILL THE BUILDING WITH WIPO
PEOPLE.

6. CO-CHAIRMEN TOLD BOGSCH THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO
HAVE BEGUN A DIALOGUE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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